

OBSERVATIONS ON THE NEW CYDER TAX, &c. BY J. MASSIE.

NUMBER XXII.

IN my papers, Number 19, 20, and 21, I have laid before the landholders of England, an account of the consequences which have resulted to the manufactures, fisheries, and trade of Scotland, from such a numerous train of English power-giving encouragements; and to save those landholders the trouble of recapitulating such a vast variety of matters and things, I have abstracted the same in such a way, as to plainly enough shew, that the trade of Scotland hath been thereby increased to about SEVEN TIMES what it was before the union.

I have likewise shewn, on the other hand, that the taxes of Scotland, instead of augmenting as the means of paying them were increasing, have by one means or other been brought into to consumptive a state, that they are now as it were wasted away to a skeleton; so much that ninety-nine ships of war, and ninety-nine seamen, out of every hundred in the ROYAL NAVY, are built, equipped, victualled, and paid, out of the money raised by taxes upon the estates, property, manufactures, and trade of the people of England!

I presume not to know what would have been said or done, under such alarming circumstances, by that parliament of England which so clearly foresaw, and in their address to King William so plainly pointed out, the dangerous consequences of a Scotch, India and African company; but supported as I am by the said address, and by the great King William's answer thereto, I presume to say, that a greater part of the stock and shipping of this nation are carried to Scotland, by the means aforesaid, than that Scotch company ever could have carried there.

And to put it equally out of the power of profligate tongues and profligate pens, to mislead any well meaning landholder of England, in what so nearly affects the stability of the BRITISH EMPIRE, I shall insert a state of the trade and taxes of the three united kingdoms; for though the doing of this exactly, depends upon many public accounts which are not obtainable by any private person, it may nevertheless be done so as to answer the present, just, and nationally important purpose, without having recourse to all those public accounts.

ENGLAND.

As to the trade of this kingdom, our yearly exports have of late fluctuated between ten and twelve millions; I shall therefore rate the yearly trade at eleven millions Sterling in value, and our annual payments of public taxes at nine millions; at which estimations, the taxes of England will make about sixteen millions in the pound upon its trade.

SCOTLAND.

The exports of this kingdom I have already rated at one million and a half Sterling value per Annum; and its taxes, clear of all deductions, on account of Scotland, I shall rate for the present, and till better information appears, at seventy-five thousand pounds per year; which makes only one shilling in the pound upon the trade of Scotland.

IRELAND.

It appears by Mr. Dobbs his Essay on the trade of this kingdom, Part I. page 8. that the yearly exports from Ireland, upon an average of seventeen years ending in 1726, amounted in value to one million and odd pounds; and in Part II. page 32. of the said Essay, it also appears, that the neat produce of the taxes of Ireland, upon an average of years ending in 1729, was four hundred and fifty thousand, &c. pounds; which taxes make about nine shillings in the pound upon the trade of Ireland.

So that the taxes of the three united kingdoms, compared with their exports of commodities and manufactures, and adjusted by a pound rate thereon, are nearly as follows. England, Sixteen Shillings in the Pound. Scotland, One Shilling in the Pound. Ireland, Nine Shillings in the Pound. — Now if any man can tell the people of England, how, and by what means, they may, under such an amazing disparity of taxes, prevent their manufactures and trade from swelling out of England into Scotland, Let him speak.

NUMBER XXIII.

IN the reign of that incomparable Princess, Queen Elizabeth, an union between England and Holland was so essential to their mutual preservation, that without it they had nothing but destruction to expect, from the exorbitant power of the Spanish monarchy; and to point out to the meanest capacity, not only the impending ruin, but the means of averting it, both nations were, on the reverse of a medal, represented by two earthen pitchers, floating at some distance on a troubled Sea, with a motto, intimating — *we clash, we sink.*

So happy was that Princess, and so able were her Ministers, in their choice of means to establish a confidence in government, under most perilous circumstances, that they accomplished by this seemingly simple device

of the earthen pitchers, what all the powers of eloquence could not have effected; and so far was that wise condescension, from either tarnishing the lustre of the crown, or impairing the dignity of government, that they only stooped to rise the higher, and make it a theme most pleasing, for the wife and good in every succeeding age to celebrate the FELICITY and FAME of those times.

Such was once the necessity of union between England and Holland; arising from exterior and temporary causes.

And such hath been, is, and will be, the necessity of union between England, Scotland, and Ireland; arising from those natural and unalterable causes, vicinity of situation and a sameness in their native productions.

The device of earthen pitchers floating on a troubled sea, may therefore, in all times, and upon all occasions, serve to point out to the people of these three united kingdoms, their true, general, and permanent INTEREST, by shewing them that — IF THEY CLASH, THEY SINK. —

I have already said, that to remove even from thought, all tendency towards discord and general calamity, hath long been a main object of British councils; and that the proceedings in this respect, are indeed so deeply rooted in wisdom, that a firm adherence to first principles is the easy condition of continuing to these nations, the diffusive blessings derived from those councils.

It will therefore be necessary to resume this subject, and to say what those first principles are; because, errors in judgement are not so much owing to false reasoning as to wrong principles.

And in order to bring those first principles into full light, it will be expedient to take a cursory view of that discord and poverty which prevailed in England, Scotland, and Ireland, before the auspicious accession of the great King William III. in whose glorious reign, the jarring interests of the three united kingdoms were first conciliated, by forming an imperial system of the whole, and assigning to each nation, such prosperity-breeding employment, as gave wealth to the PEOPLE, and strength to the UNION.

Scotland at that time did indeed abound with statesmen more cunning than wise, for they would not co-operate in a plan so beneficial to their country, but set about establishing an India and African company, and making plantations at Darien, without having a naval force to protect either; they likewise set up woollen and silk manufactures, thinking thereby to draw the more wealth and strength out of England; but alas! they only drew poverty instead of wealth, and an English prohibition of their cattle, sheep, linen, coals, &c. convinced them that they had lost the substance by grasping at shadows.

I mention these things only to shew, why Scotland was not at first comprehended in that power-giving system of British commerce, which owes its foundation to the wife councils of the great King William, tho' the happy effects of it were not conspicuous during his reign; but by this sorrowful conclusion of all those projects in Scotland, the people of that country may see how far their prosperity is owing to England, and from thence be enabled to form an idea of the discord and poverty occasioned by the like sort of English prohibitions in the reign of King Charles II. &c.

As to the state of affairs between England and Ireland, in those times, it was nearly the same, in these matters, for the landholders of England thought themselves injured by the importation of Irish cattle, &c. and the landholders of Ireland were for having some of our woollen trade; so that the prohibitions of one nation were followed by prohibitions from the other; which were so far from producing the desired effect, that poverty increased as discord spread, and reserved for the great K. William, the glorious task of delivering THREE KINGDOMS from popery, slavery, Poverty, and discord.

Then it was, that England resigned to Ireland and, some years after, to Scotland, the manufacture of LINEN, upon the equitable condition of their not interfering with her in the manufacture of WOOLLEN, for which she is naturally better adapted than either of the other; and to shew in a few words, the wisdom of this partition, I shall only say, that the Irish linen yearly imported into England, equals in value, all the annual exports of Ireland before the revolution; and that the Scotch linen yearly brought into England, doubles in value all the annual exports of Scotland before the union.

Nor hath the wisdom of British councils confined itself to the making of that systematical partition of British commerce, but, in order to render the same more diffusively beneficial to Scotland and Ireland, hath granted English bounties on the re-exportation of their linens; so that when exported to the English colonies, or to foreign countries, they are brought to market with greater helps from English purses, than have hitherto been

granted by parliament for the support of that woollen manufactory which alone can support ENGLAND.

This partition of British commerce, it is; that constitutes those first principles which have given so much wealth to the PEOPLE, and strength to the UNION.

And this, without restraining any one of the three united kingdoms from improving to the utmost, any other natural advantages belonging to it, for each of them may freely export to all foreign markets, their corn, cheese, butter, beef, pork, fish, coals, lead, &c. so that this partition leaves them all at liberty to make the most they can by trading with foreign nations, consistently with their common interest, and is only meant to prevent them from ruining each other, and to preserve an equilibrium in their conciliated interests.

NUMBER XXIV.

IN my last paper, I have shewn the natural necessity of union between the three kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland, and from what causes that necessity proceeds; I have also given a brief account of the poverty and discord which prevailed in those kingdoms, before their naturally jarring interests were conciliated, by forming an imperial system of the whole; and I have mentioned such facts relative thereto, as should not only impress upon the minds of all the three nations, a deep sense of the many blessings they owe to the wisdom and integrity of those great men who established that happy conciliation; but at the same time should convince them, that their mutual prosperity, and the stability of the British empire, depend upon a firm adherence to that CONCILIATION — for it is,

THE GREAT CHARTER OF NAVAL RULE AND BRITISH COMMERCE.

It will therefore be expedient, to collect under their proper heads, certain important matters and things, which have immediate relation to the said great charter, and will shew how strongly the same hath, on the one hand, been supported by England, while on the other hand, it hath been greatly infringed by Scotland.

ENGLAND.

This kingdom and the people thereof, have either purchased for their use, or by bounties out of their purses, secured a good market for all the linen manufactures brought here, from Scotland or from Ireland; and the taxes of England, compared with the exports of commodities and manufactures from thence, and adjusted by a pound-rate thereon, do amount to about SIXTEEN SHILLINGS in the POUND.

SCOTLAND.

This kingdom and the people thereof, interfere with the people of England in their woollen manufactory, contrary to the plain intent and meaning of the union-treaty; and in violation of that wife and just rule of English government, whereby Scotch linens were prohibited in England, whenever Scotland fought to prejudice this nation by interfering in the woollen manufactory.

In support of these allegations, I must here refer to a Scotch author, who thirty years ago admitted, in his Treatise, called the Interest of Scotland considered, that Scotch woollen manufactures were at that time exported or sent to the following countries and places.

Countries adjoining to the Baltic Sea, City of Hamburg. City of Bremen. The united Provinces. The Kingdom of Spain. The Kingdom of Portugal. Countries adjoining to the Mediterranean, The British Plantations. The City of London.

See Pages 99 to 106 of the said book. The same author hath likewise thought proper to give the following account of the woollen manufactures in Scotland at that time.

A state of the Scotch woollen manufactures, Anno. 1713.

At Kilmarnock are made low priced serges, partly for home consumption, and partly for the markets of Holland.

At Stirling and its neighbourhood are made large quantities of serges and other low priced woollen goods.

At Aberdeen and countries adjacent, large quantities of Scotch wool are manufactured into coarse serges, called Fingrams, and knit stockings of all prices; some of which goods are exported to Holland, and some of them sold at London, from whence they are exported to foreign parts.

At Edinburgh, fine shalloons are made of the best Scotch wool, and cheaper than they can be had in England.

At Mulleburgh there is a considerable manufactory of low priced narrow goods, for home consumption and exportation to the Plantations.

At Gallowhill are made a few coarse kerseys which might serve instead of lowest priced Yorkshire cloths.

At Kirkcudbright, Hawick, Monyghat, and other places near the wool countries, there are made blankets and other coarse goods for home use — Pages 105 and 106.

By these accounts of the Scotch woollen manufactures and woollen exports, thirty years ago, the landholders of England may easily perceive, that the sending of English woollen manufactures into Scotland, is likely to make a second part to the carrying of coals to Newcastle; especially when they consider, that according to the pound rate estimation of English and Scotch taxes; already mentioned, a bale of English woollen goods is now loaded with ONLY about sixteen times the weight of taxes, that a bale of Scotch woollen goods hath upon it.

And in order to shew those landholders, that this work is, by these and other means, going on with more than ordinary expedition, it will now be necessary to unmask, what I call a silent battery against every branch of manufactory and trade now subsisting in England; for though continually playing, it never was heard to roar, but without the thunder of cannon, it in commerce batters, shakes, and throws down, with a force certain as that which in war is carried by the iron-headed messengers of breach-battering artillery.

I know not of any epithet so fit, as that of silent battery, for the following long list of laws, whereby the inhabitants of the principal cities and towns in Scotland, are enabled to bear by *ale-taxes*, such charges as in England are not allowed to be borne in the same manner; nor do I know by what article of the union-treaty, any city or town in Scotland is intitled to advantages, which enable the inhabitants thereof to draw into that kingdom, the manufactures and trade of cities and towns in England, which are not allowed the like advantages.

It will therefore be expedient to acquaint the landholders, merchants, tradesmen, and manufacturers of England, that the inhabitants of the Scotch cities and towns mentioned in the annexed list, were empowered, by the several laws referred to against their respective names, to raise monies, by a tax upon ale or beer vended within their several liberties or precincts, for the various purposes of paying town debts, building town houses, maintaining poor inhabitants, supplying fresh water, improving ports and harbours, &c. &c.

Reigns.	Years.	Ch.	Cities and Towns.
Geo. I.	1	44	Glasgow
	3	5	Edinburgh
		6	Dumfries
	5	16	Dunbar
		17	Inverness
	6	7	Montrose
		8	Bruntisland
		9	Pittenweem
	7	25	Jedburgh
	8	7	Elgine
	9	14	Edinburgh
		20	Linlithgow
	12	27	Glasgow **
Geo. II.	1. S. 2.	22	Edinburgh
		11	Dundee
		13	Aberdeen
	6	18	Linlithgow
	7	5	Montrose
	9	27	Irvine
		31	Glasgow
	10, 11	4	Dunbar
		7	Dumfries
	11	4	Aberbrothock
		16	Inverness
	15, 16	8	Kirkcaldy
	17	21	Borrowstouness
	20	17	Dundee
		26	Bruntisland
	22	10	Anstruther Fidler
		13	Kinghorn
	24	38	Greenock & Finmart
	25	9	Edinburgh
	26	44	Dysart
		79	Preston Pans
		96	Pailley
	31	52	Preston Pans
		69	Kirkcaldy
	32	56	Kelfo
	33	53	Dalkeith
Geo. III.	4	55	Dumfries
	3	28	Aberbrothock

** Granted to the King, for Daniel Campbell, Esq; until £ 6,080 with interest, was paid out of the same, for damages that gentleman sustained by a riot at Glasgow.

[To be continued.]